GOV. FLOWER'S MESSAGE.

ABLE AND INTERESTING REVIEW OF STATE AFFAIRS.

There is Practically No State Debt-Prom sitions to Equalise the Burdens of Taxation-A Review of the Buffalo Strike-Laws in the Interest of Labor-Improvement of the Canals-Me Recommends the Establishment of a Bureau of Agriculture-Opposed to an Exclusively National Quarantipe - To Improve Our Roads He Suggests the County Road System,

The Governor begins his message by referring to his personal inspection, during the recess of the Legislature, of the various departents and bureaus of the State Government. He says that he takes pleasure in publicly testifying to the efficiency and honesty with which. as a rule, all the State's interests are adminised, and that such suggestions as he may have to make will be made with the view of improvement rather than in any spirit of cap-

The financial condition of the State, he says. is very satisfactory. There is practically no state debt. The only outstanding obligations are virtually already provided for. They consist of \$150,000 balance of canal debt, which matures next October, and for the liquidation f which there is now sufficient money in the canal fund; and of \$300,000 Niagara Reservabonds, the last of which do not mature until 1805, but all of which can be paid at any time from surplus moneys now in the Treasury, with the proper legislative authority. The wing table shows the financial operations of the Treasury during the last fiscal year:

Balance in treasury Oct. 1, 1892..... \$1.701,487 02

Considering that no tax was laid during the last flacal year for general purposes of government, this is a particularly gratifying showing. The principal sources of indirect revenue were from the inheritance tax and the franchise and organization taxes on corporations. The former yielded \$1.786,218.47, or more than twice as much as was yielded during the preceding year. This marked increase is owing to the fact that there was passed last year by the Legislature and approved by the Executive an act which placed in the hands of the Comptroller an appropriation of \$20,000 for examining records of Surrogates' affices with a view to collecting delinquent taxes. The Comptroller has performed his work well, as the large increase in receipts from this source shows. There was also an increase in the receipts from the franchise and organization tax on corporations, the revenues from this source reaching \$1.080,980.08, or \$101,085,88 in excess of the revenues of the preceding year. Balance in tressury Oct. 1, 1892.... \$1.701.487 02 TAXATION.

TAXATION.

The subject of taxation is likely to occupy considerable attention of the Legislature during the coming session, and no subject is worthier your profound and disinterested consideration. The Legislature, at its last session, appointed a joint committee of Senate and Assembly to investigate present methods of taxation and to suggest needed reforms, and sise by another provision authorized the Governor to designate two persons to examine the tax laws of other States and to report proposed legislation relating to the assessment and collection of taxes. The efforts of these two agencies should accomplish some practical good, and until their reports are submitted to the Legislature I refrain from making any specific recommendations as to desired changes in existing laws.

As regards the alleged disparity of tax burdens borne by personal property and real estates.

basin at loads the pending arrias has become a serious control of the scaled out to protect the lives and property of control the scaled out to protect the lives and property of the scaled out to protect the lives and property of the scaled out to protect the lives and property of the scaled out to the country. Access the sum of the following the scaled out to the scaled of the country of the Adjutant-General, and protect the scaled of the following the scaled out the following the scaled out to the scaled of the following the scaled out to the scale of the fourth briggs and the scale of the fourth briggs are scaled out to the scale of the fourth briggs are scaled out to the scale of the fourth briggs out of the scaled out the scale out to the military force prevented further violence out of the military force prevented further violence of the fourth briggs out of the militar in order that the Legislature may have before it the necessary Information to guide it in providing for the unbacked out the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of Eric from paying the total cost, at the country of the control of the proposition of the supervision of the control of the proposition of the country of the country of the country of the country of the cou

est and lawful efforts to benefit their condition they may siways feel sure that public sympathy is with them and against selfish corporations. But every citizen and corporation, serve and respect the authority of law and Government. But every employee, and the serve and respect the authority of law and Government. Bo long as they keep within the law, state Government will leave them to settle their own disputes. But law must be observed, persons and property must be protected, and the lawful use of property by its owners must not be interfered with. These are the ends for which the State primarily exists. For the maintenance of these ends every dollar of the State's money, the life and services of every member of the National Guard, and the support of every law-shiding citizen are pledged.

It should be the aim of the law-making body to see that our laws confer equal privileges. It is not right that powers should be granted to corporations to oppress either their employees or the people. Whatever can be wisely done by legislation to guarantee equal rights to all should be done. But law will not accomplish everything. Corporations will learn by costly experience that even from the selfish point of view it pays to be considerate of the wellare of their employees. No men or corporations can stop the march of civilization. Shorterhours of labor, better wages, and the opportunity which these give for education and enjoyment, are natural human aspiration. Shorterhours of labor, better wages, and afriendly Christian spirit, not repelled with arrogant manner or impatient consideration. Honest recognition by corporations of just demands from employees will solve many a labor difficulty and prevent many an opportunity for lawless strife and civil disorder.

The Interests of Labor.

THE INTERESTS OF LABOR.

mands from employees will solve many a labor difficulty and prevent many an opportunity for lawless strife and civil disorder.

THE INTERESTS OF LABOR.

The Factory act approved by me last year gave the State the most effective and most sweeping law in the Union relating to the imspection of factories. To enumerate in detail all the benefits which have followed its enactment, as it has been amended from time to time, is unnecessary here. However, as preliminary to the recommendation I propose to make. I may state that the number of children under sixteen years of age employed in workshops and factories has decreased from 110 in each thousand employees in 1890 to fortycole in each thousand in 1892, thus giving employment to about seven per cont. more adults, and at the same time materially increasing the ratio of school attendants. The employment of children under fourteen in factories is almost entirely abolished. The hours of labor, which were sixty-six per week in the textile and other industries previous to the passage of the law, have been reduced to sixty per week. About 4.000 fire escapes have been erected on dangerous buildings through the orders of the inspectors, and many lives have indisputably been saved in consequence. Machines and elevators have been guarded to the extent of the protection of thousands of lives more. The sanitary conditions of hundreds of factories have been improved.

The staff of factory inspectors was none too large for the accomplishment of these results, but additional legislation last year to reach what is known as the "sweating" system has imposed new duties and made necessary an increase in the number of inspectors if the work is to be thoroughly done. The law was a new one, modelled upon none that had been enacted anywhere before. There are about 60,000 people engaged in the clothing trade in New York is to be thoroughly done. The law was a new one, modelled upon none that had been enacted anywhere before. There are not the nement houses or in shops in the rear of tenement

these two agencies should accouncils some present in the angle of the present intentice to the Legislature commendations as to day the present of the presen

Agriculture.

SCIENTIFIC WORK IN AGRICULTURE.

In line with this suggestion I desire to call the attention of the Legislature to the advantages offered by the State Land Grant College, Cornell University, for carrying on the scientific work of agricultural promotion which is now divided among several agencies, and which should be concentrated under the direction of such a bureau as I have recommended. I think it will be conceded that more effective scientific work of this nature can be done in connection with a great educational institution, and the grouping of these now scattered departments of agricultural effort at one place and under one general supervision will also be a considerable saving of expense in maintenance. Cornell University furnishes an excellent nuclous for carrying on this State work, and its facilities and instructors might be utilized by the State with great advantage to agricultural interests. The State Meteorological Bureau is already located there. There is also an agricultural experiment station already established and doing effective work. Moreover, the institution has established practical courses of instruction in agriculture, botany, horticulture, dairy husbandry, animal industry, poultry keeping, and veterinary science. It offers free of charge and without examination, to all persons who are 16 years of age, competent instruction in these subjects for one or more terms.

All this is exactly in line with what the State

sons who are 16 years of age, competent instruction in these subjects for one or more terms.

All this is exactly in line with what the State is now trying to accomplish through miscellaneous agencies for the encouragement of modern methods of agriculture. The question presented is whether official efforts cannot be combined with these private efforts in the interest of both economy and efficiency.

Other States have been made more liberal toward their land grant colleges than the State of New York. Most of them have made appropriations for buildings and equipment. Since 1887 the State of Pennsylvania has provided several large buildings, among them an agricultural hall and creamery. The State of Ohio has appropriated \$258,000 for the same purpose. The land grant college in California has received nearly \$2,000,000 for the same purpose. The land grant college in California has received nearly \$2,000,000 for buildings, equipment, &c., from the State. The Legislature of Wisconsin has given at least \$350,000 for this purpose to its land grant college. Other States have made similar provisions. New York, however, has never voted a cent from the State treasury for Cornell University. It is entirely, however, with a view to State advantage that I would urge the concentration at Cornell University of the various agencies for promoting scientific agriculture. To carry out this suggestion would not only enable the State from time to time to extend its field of usefulness in this direction without the creation of new boards and new offices.

REGISTRATION IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

The requirement of personal registration each year in the cities of the State as a necessary preliminary to the exercise of suffrage has been a most effective agent in diaminishing fraudulentvoting. While it imposes hardships and to some extent discourages voting, its advantages are greator than its disadvantages, and it is now recognized as one of the best features of the reform electoral legislation of 1880. There is no good reason, however, why the safeguards thus thrown around the ballot in cities should not be extended to the towns and villages of this State. Such laws should, so far as possible, be uniform in their application. I therefore renew the recommendation contained in my annual message of last year, that the personal registration law be extended so as to include the remainder of the State within the territory of its operation.

PRISONS AND PARDONS. REGISTRATION IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES. PRISONS AND PARDONS.

PRISONS AND PARDONS.

The State prisons last year came within \$140.408 100 of being self-supporting. Prisoners were employed on about twenty-two different industries, and the earnings wore \$81,707.72 greater than those of the preceding year. At Auburn prison the earnings exceded the cost of care and maintenance. Legislation at your last session wisely probibited or restricted certain kinds of manufacture which were known to compete untairly with free labor, and conditions will undoubtedly compete a similar readjustment of industries from time to time, in order that convict labor may work no injury to free men.

There is now standing unused at Auburn the handsome State building formerly occupied as a prison for insanccriminals. I recommend its conversion into a prison for female felons. From a humane and reformatory point of view there is need of such a prison. It was the policy of the State prior to 1877 to maintain a separate prison for females, but since that year they have been sent to county penitentaries, the State paying a per diem amount for their board and keeping. There are now 159 female felons thus confined. The uncecupied building at Auburn is admirably adapted for such inmates. It would easily accommodate 200 prisoners, and is ready for use immediately.

While at the State prisons during the year I gave personal hearings to convicts who had applied for executive clemency. A large number of prisoners, many of whose applications had been on file in the Executive Chamber for years, were heard, and many worthy applications for cicemency were granted. The full list of pardons, with my reasons therefor, will be subsequently transmitted to the Legislature, as required by law.

THE ADIRONDACK PARK

rantable exactions in return for privileres which the people through their representatives have conferred.

The preservation of its forests, and thereby the protection of its water courses, has become the established policy of the State. It is a movement which is heartily approved by the people. It is of vital importance to the future of the State. The practical working out of the State. The practical working out of the policy, however, is full of difficulties, and the State has faken varying attitudes as to modes of procedure. It must be confessed that the results to-day, after nearly seven years' effort to establish an Adirondack park, are disappointing. While much good has been accomplished, there has been a lack of well-defined policy and business-like management which has prevented a full measure of success. Part of this has been due to the law and part to its administration.

Last year the Legislature passed an act which defined the limits of the proposed park and authorized sales of all that forest lands outside of those limits and, withathe proceeds, the purchase of new lands within the limital twas estimated that the State owned the about 1000,000 acres, half of which was located in detached pieces around the edge of the forest and could be sold at a price per acres within the limits of the proposed park. This is well enough so far as it goes, provided the sales and subsequent purchases are conducted on a business-like basis. But the trouble with this policy is that it puts the Government in the market as a buyer and seiler, and opens the way to all kinds of impositions and frauds. While it must answer the temporary purpose of getting rid of lands useless for a forest preserve and acquiring other lands useded, so far as the proceeds of the sales will permit, it will not do for a permanent and exclusive bits the imposition of the lands used of the people are indifferent as to whether the ownership of the bulk of the great forest is in private persons or in the State, so long as the forester provides are

posed by the State. I feel confident that hundreds of thousands of acres could thus be practically added to the State preserve at comparatively little expense. Whatever land might be necessary to buy outright could be bought under proper safeguards. Such a policy, it seems to me, if it could be carried out would give greater satisfaction to the people, for it would save large expense, and, what is worse, great possibility of scandal.

If this suggestion should meet the approval of the Legislature, the necessary legislation to carry it into effect should be enacted without delay, for each year's devastations of forest land is making more difficult the attainment of the State's object. With such legislation I recommission. It does not seem to me wise that this should be a permanent commission, as at present. I think that much more satisfactory results could be obtained were the commission created for a fixed time and for the definite purposes of establishing the proposed park within that time. Energy, promptness, and intelligence are greatly needed. A special commission appointed for a definite purpose would bring aspiration and pride to the performance of its great mission. The commission should consist of at least five persons, nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and should be composed of active, capable, and honest men, selected for their peculiar fitness to discharge this task creditably to themselves and to the State. After such a commission has compiled its labors its services should be discontinued, and the detail work of maintenance, oversight, and protection of the forests preserve but its subserving the agricultura would be fit to trustworthy and competent officers under the direction of the Comproller or State Engineer, or under a Commissioner of Agriculture, should such an effect he established. A Bureau of Forestry, as a part of a well-organized Department of Agricultura interests of the State.

I would also call the altention of the Legislature to needed amendments in the laws gov CARE OF THE INSANE.

The policy inaugurated by the State in 1800

The policy inaugurated by the State in 1800 of assuming the entire care and custody of the dependent insane will go into final effect during the present year. The work of preparation is nearly finished; nine State hospitals, costing upward of \$10,000,000, have been put in readiness; about 7,000 patients from the county poorhouses have been placed in the State hospitals, and the remainder labout 7,000 are expected to be transferred before May first. It will be incumbent upon the Legislature, therefore, to make provision for the maintenance and support of nearly 8,000 patients. ture, therefore, to make provision for the maintenance and support of nearly 1,000 patients.

This obligation is a serious one in its relation to taxation and demands close scrutiny. It will considerably increase the annual State tax rats, it has been carefully computed by the Commission in Lunney that the aggregate cost to be provided for by logislative appropriations, including salaries, clothing, transportation, &c. will be about \$1,300,000. The State has been in the habit of providing for about \$2,00,000 of this sum, so that the actual ordinary increase of taxation will be about \$1,100,000. In addition, the Commission in Lunney estimates that provision will have to be made for an increase of 440 patients for the year ending Oct 1, 1804. These additional accommodations can be supplied by judicious enlargement of existing hospitals rather than by the construction of new institutions.

Of course the assumption of this burden by the State relieves the counties to that extent. In fact, the relief is much greater, for by the State care act the counties of New York and Kings are exempted from its provisions, and those counties will continue to care for their own dependent insane, and must necessarily where a the same time the cost of restrictions. If the total cost to the State shall be in the neighborhood of \$1.200,000 annually, the State tax rate will be increased by about one-third of a mill on last year's valuation. I recommend to the Legislature that all appropriations granted for the State hospitals for the insane be hereafter included in one act, and that the rate of tax for this purpose be fixed and levied separately from the general tax for the support of Government. Thus the people will always know exactly what they are paying for the maintenance and support of these institutions.

PROPAGATION OF TISH.

OYSTER CULTURE.

great good can be accomplished.

OYSTER CULTURE.

I inspected with great interest during the summer the oyster beds along the southern shore of Long Jeland Sound. The State has the opportunity here to develop an important industry, giving employment to thousands of men, enriching the people by millions of dollars, and yielding, under proper laws, considerable revenue to the State Treasury. It was in 1887 that the act to encourage oyster planting in iong Island Sound was enacted, and up to that time very little had been done in the deepsen cuttivation of oysters, the planters who supply the markets relying almost entirely upon Virginia for sea cysters for cultivation. During the last five years the industry has made such rapid progress that now conservative estimates place the value of the cysters lying on the beds of Long Island Sound at \$1.500,000, and the number of men employed in the industry at 10,000. During the past year 116,000 barrols of oysters, valued at \$5.80,000, were shipped to Europe from New York city.

There are about 400,000 acres of water area in the Sound which are available for cyster culture under the provisions of the act of 1887. Of this number upward of 17,000 have now been leased. The law provides that plots may be granted to the highest fidder for a perpetual lense. So little has been known about the industry that the greater number of these grants has not brought to the State more than one or two dollars an acre. These are destined to become valuable franchises, however, and, in my onlinion, the law does not sufficiently protect the interest of the State in this regard. The state's leases should not be perpetual, but for a reasonable period of years.

Constitutional Convention.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

So far as the Executive can ascertain, there seems to be a strong current of popular sentiment throughout the State in favor of the postponement of the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention from the second Tuesday of February in the Ecaneral election in November. The expense of an election in February would be between six and seven hundred thousand dollars, which should be saved to the taxpayers if possible.

The act itself providing for a Constitutional Convention is somewhat faulty in construction, and it is asserted by competent legal authority to be of doubtful constitutionality in its provisions authorizing the appointment of delegates. These provisions were designed to give minority representation be labor and prohibition interests, whose voting strength is not sufficiently concentrated to enable them to secure representation by the ordinary means of election. In my judgment that sort of representation should also have been allowed to women suffragiats, as the bill originally provided. But if minority representation by appointment is unconstitutional, the suggestion is respectfully submitted whether it cannot be secured by election without violation of the Constitution. While it may be conceded that minority representation is unconstitutional when applied to the election of the Constitutional Convention of 1857 included thirty-iwo delegates at large, of whom no elector could vote for more than sixteen, and the CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

present judiciary srticle of our Constitution is a part of that Convention's work, and nobody has ventured to question its validity. If it should be deemed best to retain that feature of the present Constitutional Convention law, and it is necessary to abandon the provision for appointment, I would suggest its modification to the extent of permitting representation to the extent of permitting representation of more than one minority interest. It would add to the representative character of the Convention if organized labor, prohibition, and woman sufrage advocates might in this way participate as full members in the proceedings.

way participate as full members in the proceedings.

The use of money in electrons.

The part of our electoral machinery which now most needs strengthening by legislation is that relating to the use of money in elections. The Legislature has made it impossible to bribe voters with any degree of assurance that they will vote as they have been bribed; but notwithstanding the statutory safeguards it is notorious that money is still spent in elections for corrupt purposes. The active agents in the corruption are appurently either willing to trust the corrupted voter to vote as he has been bribed, or the corruption takes the form of peculiary inducement to the elector to remain away from the polls.

I am confident that this state of affairs can be thoroughly remedied by law. The most potent instrument of reform is wholesome public opinion. No law, however stringent, can be effective without the earnest support of popular sontiment. But every law aimed at this evil and every sgitation of it are influential in properly shaping public opinion.

Another proposed remedy for the evil of corruption is such legislation as will make proof of bribery on the part of candidates or their political agents or committees sufficient cause for forfeiture of office. Great Britain has such a law, Our laws already disfranchise those who are convicted of bribing voters, but they practically protect the beneficiary 4 this crime by leaving him in possession of the office unless it can be proved that the bribed votes which he received more than equalled the amount of his plurality. Candidates and committees would hesitate to expend money corruption.

I recommend these proposed changes in our election laws to your attention, and trust that some practical good, in the direction of diminishing bribery, may be accomplished at the present legislative session.

some practical good, in the direction of diminishing bribery, may be accomplished at the present legislative session.

The subject of good roads is exciting a remarkable interest throughout the country, ily popular agitation and through the newspapers the movement is beginning to find expression in State legislation, and, if it goes on with its present momentum, will revolutionize conditions now prevailing in nearly all rural localities.

While having no sympathy whatever with that phase of this movement which seeks the establishment of a National Bureau of Boads and the consequent building of national roads through the country. I am thoroughly convinced that the prosperity of our own State, and especially the interests of its agricultural sections demand prompt and effective efforts to improve the condition of our highways. It has long been admitted generally that our present system of highway improvement is indefensible, either from the point of view of efficiency. Yet annual spasmodic efforts have been made here and there to establish permanent and durable roads, or even to change the antiquated method which has so long prevailed. As is well known the principal features of our highway legislation and bractice is what is, comprehended by the so-called "working" system, and with a view of getting at reliable statistics as to the actual cost at present of highway maintenance and construction under this system. I have sent communications to the town clerks in the State, requesting them to furnish me with ligures which would be of use in such a computation. I have received replies from only about a third of the towns. Yet the figures received afford a reasonable opportunity of computing with more or less degree of accuracy the approximate cost in each county. These figures show that fifty counties in the State are now paying annually in labor and cash about \$2,700,000 upon their highways. This is an average of about \$54,000 for each county. I venture the assertion, which I think will be generally corroborated by

separate prison for females, but since that year they have been set to county penilenters they have been set to county penilenters that they have been set to the legislative session I vetod two bills setablishing new fish hatcheries. A personal hearing to convict who had applied for executive elemency. A large number of prisoners, many of whose applications are they have been set to the legislative session of the experiment of the legislative new hatcheries are needed, the location of the same peniled by law.

THE COAL COMBINATIOS.

During the last year there has been formed a powerful combination between certain railroads and cal companies with the appraint propose of exacting higher prives from the fine different propose of exacting higher prives from the propose of exacting higher prives from the propose of exacting the propose of the experiment of the different propose of exacting the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the prives from the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the prives from the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the prives from the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the prives from the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the prives from the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the prives from the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the prives from the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the prives from the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the prives from the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the private of the propose of exacting the propose of exacting the private private propose of exacting the private private private p and Getober last the country was threatened with the introduction of choicar from infected foreign ports, and the quarantine facilities at the port of New York were shown to be entired by made and the country of the production of the product of t

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portation of infectious and contagious diseases into this country as could be accomplished in any other way.

A rigid system of inspection at foreign ports,
under the direction of the consular service,
would form the best kind of national quarantine. As for the rest, it can safely be left to
State jurisdiction and control. A complete
Federal quarantine within the legitimate
field of Federal power will fitly supplement
a complete State quarantine within the natural field of State power, and both suplementing each other in this way will afford the securest protection to public health.

CARELIESS ENGROSSING AND CONSTRUCTION OF

CARELESS ENGIOSEING AND CONSTRUCTION OF LEGISLATIVE BILLS.

I particularly urgs upon the attention of the Legislature the necessity of an improvement in the construction and engrossing of bills. No less than seventy-two bills which reached the Executive Chamber last year during the legislative session were so faultily drafted that they had to be recalled for the correction of merely verbal or rhetorical errors, and similar defects prevented many measures from receiving Executive approval during the thirty days after the Legislature had adjourned. These do not include a vasily greater number which contained engrossing errors—errors in transcribing from the bills actually passed—and which were sent back to the engrossing rooms for correction.

It is no business of the Governor to extend his scrutiny beyond the engrossed bill, but had he followed this strict interpretation of his duty during the last session the printed Laws of 1802 would be a standing contradiction of the journals of the two Houses, and would have overwhelmed the law-making body with the consure and ridicule of the people of the State.

The interest of clean and clear legislation demands a radical reform in this direction. Fither the committees of the Legislature should exercise greater care in the construction of bills and more competent men should be placed in the engrossing rooms, or legislative counsel should be provided for consultation in the drafting of bills and the antiquated method of engrossing bills be done away with. Either or both changes would make the Exective Chamber less of a factory for renovating and reconstructing defective bills.

Evice County Must Pay for the Troops. CARELESS ENGROSSING AND CONSTRUCTION OF LEGISLATIVE BILLS.

ALBANY, Jan. 3.-Comptroller Campbell tolay received an opinion from Attorney-Gender obligations to reimburse the State for the payment of the expenses of the National payment of the expenses of the National Guard during the recent switchmen's strike at Buffalo. The State, from funds realized by a temporary loan, paid all the National Guard called into service, excepting those of the Sixty-fith and Seventy-fourth Regiments of Buffalo, which it was understood, had been provided for by Erie county. The Attorney-General holds that an itemized statement of the payments made should be presented to the Erie county. Board of Supervisors. The amount involved is in the neighborhood of \$180,000.

Louis Vandervoort has brought action in the Superior Court to secure an interest in \$300. George A. Defendorf, who died nearly three years ago. The property consists of 652 Broadway, five houses at Bowery and Fourth

George Defendorf, who left the property. The lawyer, it is alleged, had three children, Wilon L. and George A. Defendorf and Mrs. Mason L and George A. Detendori and Ars. Ma-tida Cleland. The counsel in the case are reticent about details, but it appears that George A. Detendorf married about twenty-five years ago Elizabeth J. Vandervoort, de-ceased, who, the pisintiff says, was his mother. The plantiff is about 23 years old, and lives at Roseton, N. J. Elizabeth s other children, who are nearly of age, Allen D, and Winifred L. Defendorf, are made defendants in the present action.

ction. George A. Defendorf was very poor after his parriage, and for a time he lived with his George A. Defendorf was very poor after his marriage, and for a time he lived with his wife's mother. Catharine Vandervoort, in Harlem. There the plaintiff was born, and he resided there until recently. He took the name of Vandervoort, by which he is still known. He declaros that he was on visiting terms with his father; and was recognized as a son up to his father's death. He charges that his uncle. Wilson L. Defendorf, and his aunt, Matilda Cicland, have sought, as administrators of his father's estate, to deprive him of the rents and property.

father's estate to deprive him of the rents and property.

The case came up for trial before Judge Dugro yesterday, but went over the term on an affidavit of Joshua Kantrovitz, guardian for Allen D. and Winifred L. Defendorf. Kantovitz says he is investigating the claim of the plaintiff. He says the plaintiff was known by the name of Louis Vanderwort, and has had his name changed to Defendorf on an exparte application. Plaintiff secunsel says his client has not had his name changed, but is still known as Louis Vanderwoort.

Struck Natural Gas, Oswego, Jan. 3.—A large vein of natural gas was struck in well No. 12 at Sandy Creek yesterday. The tools were thrown high in the air, and the drillers ran for their lives. The noise of the escaping gas was heard two miles.

Opening Foreign Cotton Dress Goods and Shirtings. Wednesday Jan. 4th.

French Ginghams, French Madras Cloths,

French Percales, Printed Dotted Swiss, Scotch Ginghams, Cheviots and Matte Cloths.

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BALE OF THE VYSE PLACE. Eighty-Seven Acres in the Annexed District

Bring More than \$540,000.

Lawyers Rose & Putzel, representing Mr. Emil & Lovy and a syndicate of capitalists closed a contract yesterday with the Ninth National Bank for the purchase of lands in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth wards known as the Vyse place. More than twenty years ago Mr. Thomas A. Vyse, then President of the Ninth National Bank, became fluancially embarrassed, and to secure the bank for his indebtedness to it transferred his residence, known as the Vyse place, to the his residence, known as the Vyse place, to the bank. He had purchased the property from Collector Thomas Surphy in 1897 for more than \$200,000. The bank has held the property ever since. Yesterday the property was sold for more than \$540,000, which exceeds Mr. Vyse's indebtedness. The property extends north from Homestreet, which corresponds to 167th street for twelve blocks. Part of the property is west of the Bouthern Boulevard and part of it to the east. The tract comprises about eighty-seven acres. The purchasers will iny out the property in city lots, run streets through it, and put up dwellings, The trolley system of the Huckleberry road will pass through the property on the Southern Boulevard. financially embarrassed, and to secure the

The State Department Interested. The smothering of Patrick McDrury in the grain in the hold of the steamship Bolivia of the Anchor line while the vessel was lying at the Brooklyn dock and the sailing of the steamer with his body to Glasgow have become matters of interest to the State De-partment at Washington. Jane McDrury, the partment at Washington. Jane McDrury, the mother of the young man, sent a communication to Secretary of State Foster in December relating to the circumstances of her son's death and appealing to Mr. Foster to have her son's remains brought back to this country. Yesterday Mayor Boody received a note from the State Department enclosing Mrs. McDrury's communication and asking him to make an investigation and send the result to the State Department at Washington. The correspondence was turned over to District Attorney Ridgway, who will make the investigation.

Screw Ferryboats for the New Jersey Cen-

The New Jersey Central Railroad Company is building two fore-and-aft screw ferryboats at Wilmington, which are to begin running on Feb. 15 on the new route from the New Jersey Central station to the foot of Whitehall street. The new boats are to be faster than any now The new boats are to be faster than any now in use by the company, and it is expected to make the trip to the Whitehall street slip in the same time that is taken for the trip to Liberty street. The new boats will be run chiefly in connection with the Royal Blue trains, in order to land passengers at a point in this city where all the raised roads may be reached at the South Ferry station. The new boats, which will be named the Easton and Mauch Chunk, will each be 158 feet long, 32 feet beam, 54 feet over guards, and 14.4 feet hold.

Court Calendars This Day.

Cases from Part III. Part II.—Case unfinished. Cases from Part III. Part IV.—Case unfinished. Cases from Part III.

Sussecart's Court.—Wills of R. J. Ciarke, George W. Long, Fannie M. Kellogg, William Newfonegal, Adams Hoffman, Matthew P. Robbins, Clara L. Lyons, Arthur Terry, Eleanor Burling, John Doorley, James H. Westerfield, 10:30 A. M. Estate of William E. King, 10:30 A. M. For probate—Wills of George S. Stringfield, Frederick Rerschiner, 10 A. M.; John Eichler, 10:30 A. M. COMMON PLEAS—GENERAL TERM.—NOS. D. 15. 14, 16, 21, COMMON PLEAS—GENERAL TERM.—Adjourned for the term. Susceptible, 10:40, 40:40

Reasons

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